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4-04 Powers, J.F.
JCS 1-01.1 USSR (ABEL)

U-2 Pilot Powers Gets Secret Medal

Daily News Wire Services

Five years after he was shot down over Russia during a U-2 spy mission, Francis Gary Powers is reported to have been awarded a secret medal by his then boss, the U.S. Cen-

tral Intelligence Agency.

Powers' capture, arrest and trial created international notoriety in 1960 and is credited with breaking up a proposed summit meeting between Russia and the United States.

Powers, now 35, was released by the Russians in 1962 in exchange for Col. Rudolph Abel, a Soviet spy.

Mystery still surrounds Powers. He now works for Lockheed Aircraft in California, doing undisclosed work. He and his first wife were divorced a year after his return to this country. In 1963 he married a former CIA agent.

Powers received the CIA medal at secret ceremonies at the spy organization's Virginia headquarters about two weeks ago, according to the New York Herald Tribune. He is not supposed to wear the medal and is not supposed to tell anybody about it.

The CIA had "no comment at all. He's a former employee. We don't comment on former employees."

Russians Told Of 'Hero' Abel

The Russian public learned for the first time Tuesday of Col. Rudolph Abel and his espionage activities.

Soviet television viewers were told Abel was honored by the government after his exchange by a "foreign power." The "foreign power" was not identified as the United States.

The disclosure came by a Soviet security forces general, during a talk about Soviet espionage work during World War II. He singled Abel out as an outstanding Soviet intelligence agent.

The general said Abel, 55, is now living under his real name—which was not disclosed.